

These include a Cedars Discipleship Institute (Christian education); Sons of Simeon (men's ministry); Daughters of Miriam dance classes; boys' basketball and football teams; classes to develop job skills in computers, lock smithing and electricity; health and beauty workshops; aerobics classes; and a soon-to-be-opened child development center. All services are open to the community as well as to members of the church.

Mount Lebanon's community service extends beyond its immediate environs. Through very active involvement in the Washington Interfaith Network (WIN), an interdenominational coalition of churches from all eight of the city's wards, it also participates in other city-wide programs to provide low-cost housing for families and after school care for children, reduce crime, provide education/job skills to citizens, and to assure a living wage for all persons employed in the city.

Mr. Speaker, through worship and community service, Mount Lebanon carries out its slogan, "We serve a great God; we are a great people; and we are about a great work."

Mr. Speaker, I ask that the members of this body join me in congratulating the Mount Lebanon Baptist Church, and celebrating the spiritual understanding that has guided their path for 100 years.

VERY REVEREND NAHAS HONORED

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 17, 1999

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Very Reverend Herbert G. Nahas from Northeastern Pennsylvania. This month, Rev. Nahas will observe the 50th Anniversary of his ordination at a community-wide celebration on September 19. I am pleased to have been asked to participate in this tribute.

Born in Pawtucket, Rhode Island, Rev. Nahas is the son of Rev. George Nahas and Elizabeth Kassab. He graduated from Brown University. Before entering the priesthood, he served his country in Army Intelligence for five years. Because of his fluency in both French and Arabic, young Herbert Nahas accompanied General Martin G. Eddy, of the Ninth Infantry Division in the invasion of North Africa, and was later assigned to the staff of General Eisenhower in Algeria.

Rev. Nahas' interest in theology began at an early age as he served and studied the church under his father. He later studied with Father Wakeem Dalack of St. Nicholas Cathedral in Brooklyn.

Rev. Nahas came to our area in 1951, spending 47 of his 50 years as a priest at St. Mary's Antiochian Orthodox Church in Wilkes-Barre. Celebrating its 95th anniversary this year, St. Mary's holds the distinction of being one of the oldest Antiochian Churches in the nation. In 1961, Bishop Anthony made Reverend Nahas an Archpriest with the title of "Exarch." Shortly thereafter, the Reverend began to raise funds for a new church and the new building was completed and dedicated by 1968.

In addition to serving his parishioners, Rev. Nahas has also served the Wyoming Valley community. He has served on numerous local boards, including those of the United Way and

American Heart Association. He organized "Father Nahas' Senior Citizens Organization." After Wilkes-Barre was inundated by tropical Storm Agnes in 1972, Rev. Nahas opened his parish hall for use as a shelter for displaced flood victims. He is a much sought-after speaker, frequently addressing the local Rotary, Kiwanis, and Lions clubs.

Mr. Speaker, Rev. Herbert Nahas is an icon in Northeastern Pennsylvania. He and his wife, Alice, raised three children here and now enjoy five grandchildren. His commitment to his parish and the community is legendary. He is loved by all those who have been fortunate enough to have been touched by his spiritual guidance and kindness over the years. I am proud to join with the community in sending my very best wishes to the Very Reverend Herbert G. Nahas on this momentous occasion.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 2490, TREASURY AND GENERAL GOVERNMENT APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2000

SPEECH OF

HON. WILLIAM M. THOMAS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 1999

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, I want, first of all, to complement the distinguished gentleman from Arizona, the Chairman of the Treasury-Postal Appropriations Subcommittee, Mr. KOLBE, for his work on this legislation.

I want to particularly complement the Chairman for the inclusion in this bill of three key and much needed reforms of the Federal Election Commission. They are a requirement that campaign reports be filed electronically, a simplified administrative penalty process for campaign reporting violations, and a change in the campaign reporting period from a calendar year to an election cycle basis.

As Chairman of the Committee on House Administration, I want to say that we have worked closely with the Appropriations Committee on the development of these legislative items. I believe we have taken an important step towards improving our election process.

These reforms may not make headlines, but they are the most significant legislative changes in the operation of the FEC we have seen in 20 years. These reforms were originally recommended in the January 29, 1999 report of the Independent Audit of the FEC. That Audit was authorized by the Committee on Appropriations in consultation with the Committee on House Administration.

The adoption of these reforms has been recommended on a bipartisan basis by the Members of the FEC itself. They were all included in H.R. 2668, the Campaign Reform and Election Integrity Act of 1999, reported favorably to the House floor by the Committee on House Administration on August 2, 1999.

Virtually everyone agrees these reforms would be good for the House and good for the American public.

Electronic filing would substantially speed up the transmission of information from campaigns to the general public, and ensure that information filed with the FEC is legible and more easily subject to analysis once filed. A campaign could not hide or delay the disclosure

of its donors. Reports filed electronically with the FEC can be posted on the Internet almost instantly, eliminating processing time that can delay the release of information for short, but critical periods, especially as election day nears.

Allowing the FEC to impose administrative fines for reporting violations without the lengthy procedural steps required in a normal enforcement case will free critical FEC resources for more important disclosure and enforcement efforts. The rights of those under these regulations are protected by preserving the option of appeal to a U.S. District Court, for those who believe the FEC erred.

Saving taxpayer dollars, cutting costs for the regulated community, and ensuring speedier resolution of cases are all a net gain for the voter and our electoral system.

Finally, the seemingly minor, but highly significant change from a calendar year to an election cycle reporting period will make it easier for candidates to avoid inadvertent receipt of contributions in excess of allowable election cycle limits, and provide more information to the public about the level of fundraising and campaign spending at any given point in an election cycle. Reports will show how much money a candidate has raised and spent from the end of the last election to the present, rather than from the end of the last calendar year. This recommendation will save money in enforcement costs and provide more relevant information to the public.

These reforms are the kind of legislation we should see more of from the U.S. House of Representatives. Without impairing the right of free speech, without the expenditure of large amounts of taxpayer funds, we have improved the level of information, and the quality of enforcement in our political process.

TRIBUTE TO FRANK GARRISON

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 17, 1999

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, September 21, 1999, a dinner will be held in honor of Frank Garrison, President of Michigan AFL-CIO.

The dinner will mark the more than four decades of Frank Garrison's public service. The chairs of the dinner will include two former Governors, William Milliken and James Blanchard. The sponsorship of two leaders from different political parties is a reflection of the broad nature of Frank Garrison's activities. During his service as the legislative director for the UAW in the 1970s and early 1980s, he was a key player in a wide variety of efforts, including the lobbyist disclosure law enacted in 1976, the Open Meetings Act, and the Essential Insurance Act and other insurance reforms that protected consumers' access to insurance at fair prices. He also fought for measures to bring health care to more of Michigan's citizens.

An equal, if not greater passion, was that of participation in the political process in general and the Democratic Party in particular. I first came to know Frank well when I was running for Governor in the 1970s. There were many a plant gate that we visited together, often in the dark wee hours of the early morning. We